CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-232 (PACS C6) **Construction Date:** circa 1890

Name: Page Schoolhouse Property

Location: 9000 Block of Crescent Lane, La Plata vicinity, Charles County

Private/Vacant/Unoccupied/Good/Not accessible

Description:

The Page Schoolhouse Property is a 1-story, 1-room schoolhouse on the south side of Crescent Lane near the junction of Turkey Hill Road. Constructed circa 1890, the schoolhouse has an enclosed entry. The structure has a standing seam metal, front-gable roof with two interior brick chimneys near the north and south walls. The schoolhouse is of wood-frame construction with wood clapboard siding, and it has a foundation of brick piers. The enclosed entry has a front-gable roof and a five-panel wood door with a transom. The windows are 6/6 double-hung wood, all of which have operational wood shutters. There are two windows on both the north and south elevations, and one window on the west elevation.

Significance:

The Page Schoolhouse is an excellent example of a late 19th century one-room schoolhouse still located on its original site. According to the present owner of the property, Philip Spalding, the schoolhouse was in continuous use until circa 1930. The Page Schoolhouse Property is a rare example of a one-room schoolhouse in Charles County and represents a significant part of the history of education in the county. The Page Schoolhouse Property was originally situated on 0.40 hectares (1 acre) of land sold by Horatio Claggett Page and Mary B. Page to the Board of School Commissioners of Charles County in 1885 "for the purpose of erecting a schoolhouse for the education of white children" (DB BGS8- 598). A schoolhouse was built on the land circa 1890. The 0.40 hectare (1 acre) lot was part of the Pages' "Oak Grove," holdings estimated at approximately 172.40 hectares (426 acres) at the time of Mary

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B. Page's death in 1887 (DB 24-219). The small, frame schoolhouses of the nineteenth century fell into disuse after the tornado of 1926 in which thirteen children were killed in a two-room schoolhouse in La Plata. A building committee was organized in 1927 and the consolidated school, constructed of brick, was opened in La Plata during 1928 (Willet 1988:32-33). The Board of School Commissioners of Charles County sold the Page Schoolhouse and the .40 hectare (1 acre) lot associated with it to Walter Page in 1930. The lot became part of the 90.24 hectares (223 acres) sold by the Pages to the present owners, Philip and James Spalding, in 1942. The Page Schoolhouse Property is currently located on a 2.06 hectare (5 acre) parcel.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Page Schoolhouse Property

and/or common Spalding Property

2. Location:

street & number 9000 Block of Crescent Lane ___ not for publication

city, town La Plata _x_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	___occupied	___agriculture	___museum
_x_building(s)	_x_private	_x_unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	___private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in process	___yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	___industrial	_x_other: vacant
	_x_not applicable	_x_no	___military	
			___transportation	

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Philip and James Spalding

street & number P.O. Box 71 telephone no.:

city,town La Plata state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County liber 77

street & number 101 Catalpa Drive folio 314

city,town La Plata state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository/survey records

city,town state

7. Description

Survey No.: CH-232 (PACS C6)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___excellent	___deteriorated	_x_unaltered	_x_original site	
_x_good	___ruins	___altered	___moved	date of move _____
___fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Page Schoolhouse Property is a 1-story, 1-room schoolhouse on the south side of Crescent Lane near the junction of Turkey Hill Road. Constructed circa 1890, the schoolhouse has an enclosed entry.

The structure has a standing seam metal, front-gable roof with two interior brick chimneys near the north and south walls. The schoolhouse is of wood-frame construction with wood clapboard, and it has a foundation of brick piers. The enclosed entry has a front-gable roof and a five-panel wood door with a transom. The windows are 6/6 double-hung wood, all of which have operational wood shutters. There are two windows on both the north and south elevations, and one window on the west elevation.

The property is located on its original site on the south side of Crescent Lane west of the junction of Turkey Hill Road. There is modern residential development to the west and south of the schoolhouse. The site is generally level, and there is a growth of old woods to the south, and the trace of an abandoned road to the east. The property's setting is a rural area which has a mixture of mid twentieth century and recently constructed residences.

8. Significance

Survey No.: CH-232 (PACS C6)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion	
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science	
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture	
__1600-1699	x_architecture	x_education	__military	__social/ humanitarian	
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	__theater	
x_1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__transportation	
__1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__other:	
		__invention			

Specific dates circa 1890 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: _x_A ___B _x_C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state _x_local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Page Schoolhouse Property was originally situated on 0.40 hectares (1 acre) of land sold by Horatio Claggett Page and Mary B. Page to the Board of School Commissioners of Charles County in 1885 "for the purpose of erecting a schoolhouse for the education of white children" (DB BGS8-598). A schoolhouse was built on the land circa 1890. The 0.40 hectare (1 acre) lot was part of the Pages' "Oak Grove," holdings estimated at approximately 172.40 hectares (426 acres) at the time of Mary B. Page's death in 1887 (DB 24-219). The small, frame schoolhouses of the nineteenth century fell into disuse after the tornado of 1926 in which thirteen children were killed in a two-room schoolhouse in La Plata. A building committee was organized in 1927 and the consolidated school, constructed of brick, was opened in La Plata during 1928 (Willet 1988:32-33). The Board of School Commissioners of Charles County sold the Page Schoolhouse and the .40 hectare (1 acre) lot associated with it to Walter Page in 1930. The lot became part of the 90.24 hectares (223 acres) sold by the Pages to the present owners, Philip and James Spalding, in 1942. The Page Schoolhouse Property is currently located on a 2.06 hectare (5 acre) parcel. There are no detailed, published historic maps or atlas of Charles County, Maryland which locate and indicate ownership of buildings.

From the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century, schools in rural America were invariably one-room schools. If population increased in a rural area, however, two one-room buildings could be joined together to form a larger building and then separated if the population began to decline. The level of funding provided by an area had a great impact on the kind of school that its residents constructed.

The most recognizable form of rural school building is a front-gable structure with a three-bay facade and three windows symmetrically arranged along each side. Such schools commonly had a bell tower located close to the front of the building and a chimney placed at the back of the roof. Most schools also had either a partial shed roof porch supported by wooden posts, or an enclosed entry porch. In most school buildings, the depth exceeded the width. In poorer areas schools were simple structures, often with a side gable roof, constructed of timber with board and batten siding. These schools usually had only one window in the front and one on each side. They also included an exterior gable end chimney usually made of stone. Many schools in very remote areas were frequently constructed of logs.

8. Significance (Continued)

Beginning in the 1870s, a growing number of architects became interested in designing rural schoolhouses. Numerous articles appeared in journals of the period which outlined these designs. Commonly, they stressed Gothic Revival features and Queen Anne gingerbread woodworking. Such designs reflect the growing idealization of rural life seen in much of the literature during this period. After 1900, some rural schools were built with either bungalow-style or four-square style hipped roofs thus reflecting the influence of contemporary urban building styles. By this time, however, the heyday of the one-room schoolhouse was over. The first two decades of the twentieth century saw large-scale school district consolidations all across the country brought on by the advent of improved roads and school buses. Today, fewer than one percent of one-room schools are still in use in the country (Gulliford 1991, 35-45).

The Page Schoolhouse is located in Charles County, in southern Maryland. The Native American inhabitants of southern Maryland from the Piscataway and Potobac nations were joined by European settlers beginning in 1634 with the establishment of St. Mary's City by Leonard Calvert. Successive waves of colonists took up tracts of land further inland from the Chesapeake Bay along the Patuxent and Potomac rivers and their tributaries. Charles County was formed in 1658 and Prince George's County was established in 1696. Settlement was confined to inland areas until road clearing began in the mid-eighteenth century as a result of the establishment of port towns and Maryland's rising population. Tobacco cultivation dominated the economic and social life of both Charles and Prince George's counties until the mid-nineteenth century when soil exhaustion necessitated agricultural diversification. The introduction of rail lines in 1873 linked Prince George's and Charles counties with the surrounding area, encouraging trade and settlement. While the suburbanization of Prince George's and Charles counties was ensured by the widespread availability of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century, these southern Maryland counties have also retained their rural and agricultural character.

8. Significance (Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The Page Schoolhouse Property, constructed circa 1890, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, as an excellent example of a late 19th century one-room schoolhouse still located on its original site. According the present owner of the property, Philip Spalding, the schoolhouse was in continuous use until circa 1930. The Page Schoolhouse Property is a rare example of a one-room schoolhouse in Charles County and represents a significant part of the history of education in the county. In addition, the property is eligible under Criterion C, as an intact example of a one-room schoolhouse. The structure has not been altered and it retains its original wall materials, windows, shutters, and doors. Despite recent residential development in the neighborhood, the schoolhouse is screened from the development by woods, and its historic setting, including the trace of the original roadbed to Turkey Hill Road, remains intact. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended XX Eligibility Not Recommended _____

Comments: _____

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date: _____

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: 10/19/96

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.: CH-232 (PACS C6)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.4 hectares (1 acre)
Quadrangle name La Plata, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company date September 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412 telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.

Gulliford, Andrew. Country Schools in American Education. Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1991.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore, 1866.

Maryland Geological Survey. [1840] Map of Eastern Maryland with 1860 Additions. Copy on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Rivoire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.

Spalding, Philip. Personal Interview, 3 September 1996.

Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Railroad. An unpublished paper on deposit at the Prince George's County Historical Society. August 1984.

Ibid. La Plata, Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years, The Heart of Charles County. La Plata: Town of La Plata, 1988.

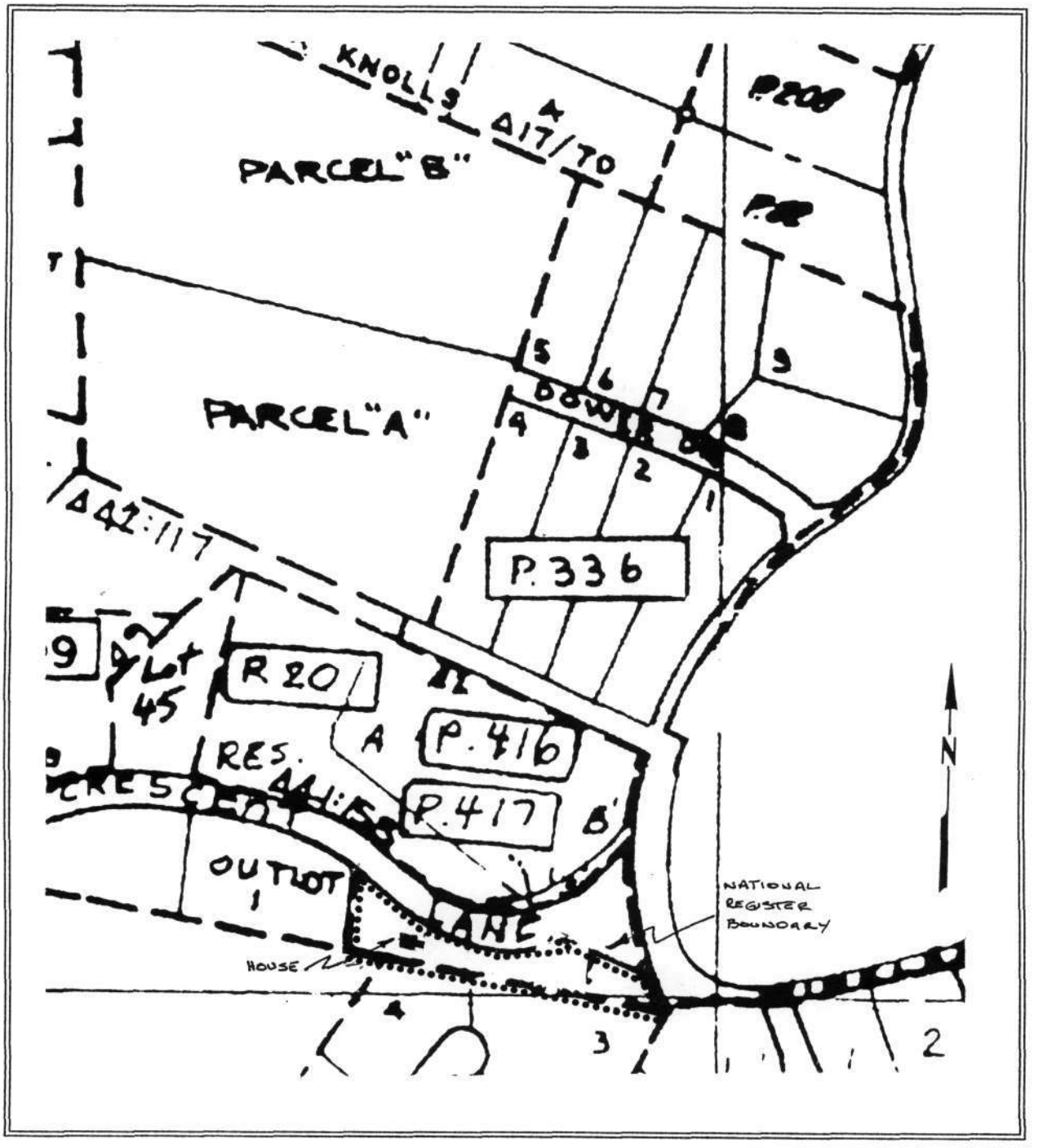
10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal boundary description and justification:

The National Register boundaries of the Page Schoolhouse Property follow the current property lines of the part of the Spalding Property (Charles County Tax Map 23, Parcel 20) located on the south side of Crescent Lane. The boundaries exclude that part of the 2.06 hectare (5.08 acre) parcel located on the north side of Crescent Lane. The parcel is divided into two parts by Crescent Lane and is bounded on the north, south, west and east by adjacent tax parcels. The boundary includes the schoolhouse and the land, approximately 0.4 hectares (1 acre), historically associated with the school. According to deed research, the parcel was sold by Horatio Claggett Page and Mary B. Page to the Board of School Commissioners of Charles County in 1885.

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Page Schoolhouse Property; CH-232 (PACS C6)
9000 Block of Crescent Lane, vicinity of La Plata, Charles County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Education

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings; Private Ownership; Public Acquisition - Not applicable; Unoccupied; Not accessible; Vacant, Schoolhouse

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

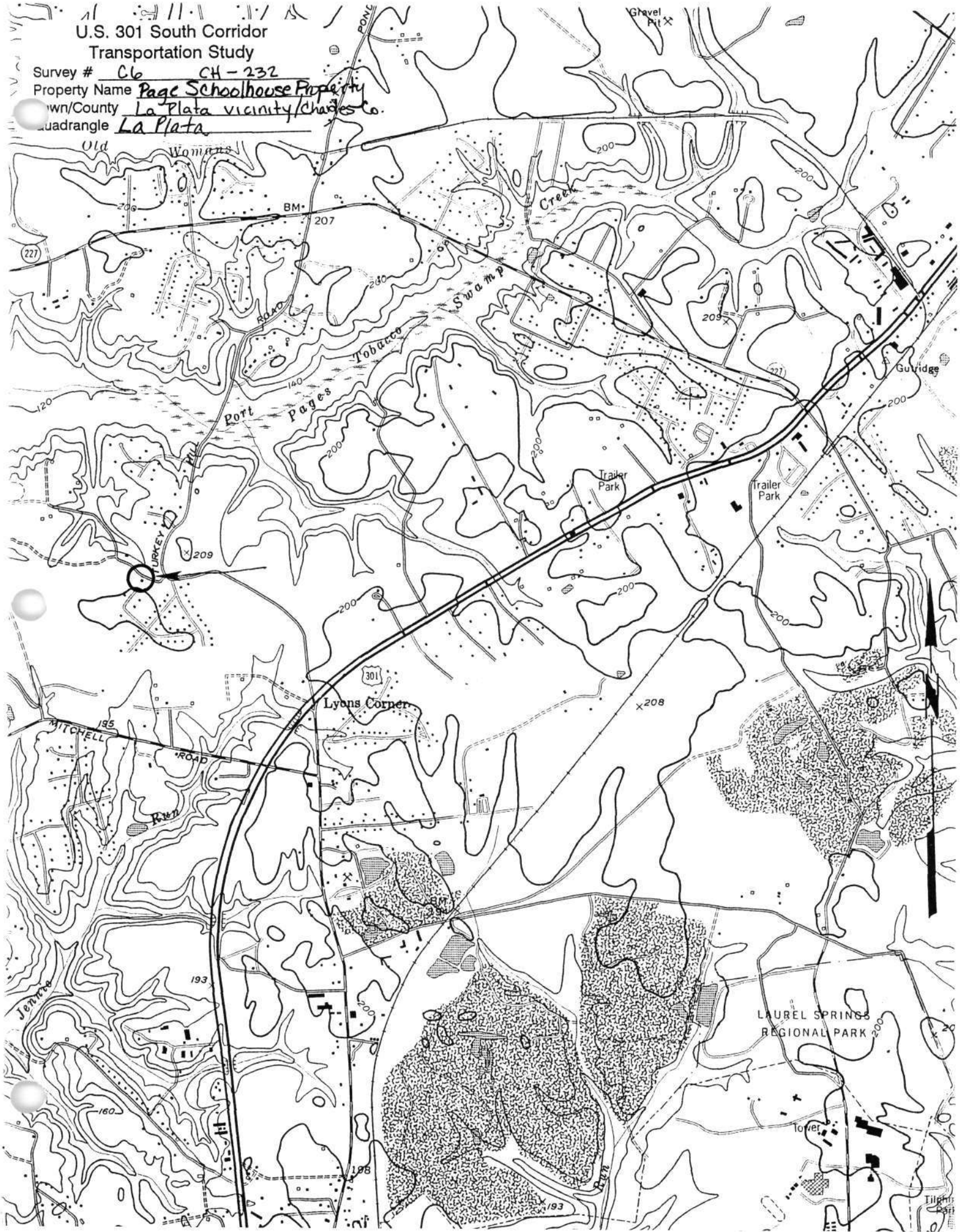
Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

School

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None


U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study
Survey # C6 CH-232
Property Name Page Schoolhouse Property
Town/County La Plata vicinity/Charles Co.
Quadrangle La Plata
Old Womans
Creek
Swamp
Tobacco Road
Port Pages
Gravel Pit
Trailer Park
Trailer Park
Guthridge
Lyons Corner
MITCHELL ROAD
Run
LAUREL SPRINGS REGIONAL PARK
Tower
BM 207
BM 194
227
301
221
209
208
200
195
193
160
140
120



1. CH-232

2 Page School house Property Charles County, MD

3 Ryan McKay

4 P.A.L. Spero & Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave., Baltimore, MD 21204

5 9000 Block of Crescent Lane, North and West elevations of School - Southwest View

6 1 of 4



1 cH-232

2 Page School house Property, Charles County, MD

3 Bryan Mckay, 9/96

4 P.A.C Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, #412 Baltimae, MD 21204

5 9000 Block of Crescent Lane
North and east elevations of school
South west view

6 2 of 4



1. CH-232

2. Page schoolhouse Property
Charles County, MD

3. Ryan McKay, 9/96

4. H.A.C. Spero & Co., HOW Chesapeake
Ave. Balto, md 21204

5 9000 Block of Crescent Lane
East elevation of school
West View

6 3 of 4



1. CH-232

2. Page schoolhouse Property
Charles County, MD

3. Ryan McKay, 9/96

4. P.A.C. Spero + Co., 40 W. Chesapeake Ave,
#412, Balto, Md 21204

5. 9000 Block of Crescent Lane
South elevation of School

6. West View

6 4 of 4

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

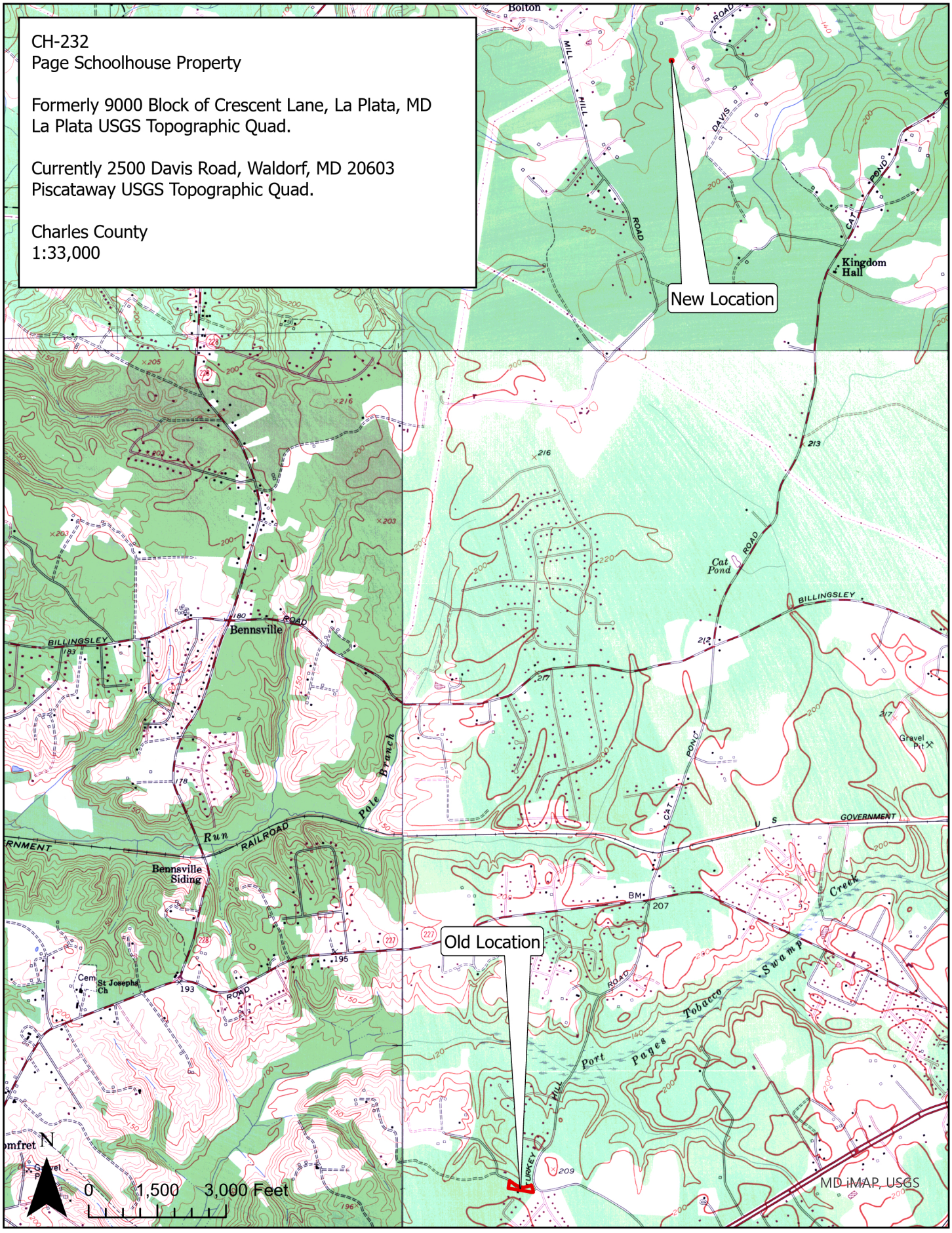
Inventory No. CH-232

Name of Property: Page Schoolhouse Property
Location: 9000 Block of Crescent Lane, La Plata, MD (former location)
2500 Davis Road, Waldorf, MD 20603 (current location)

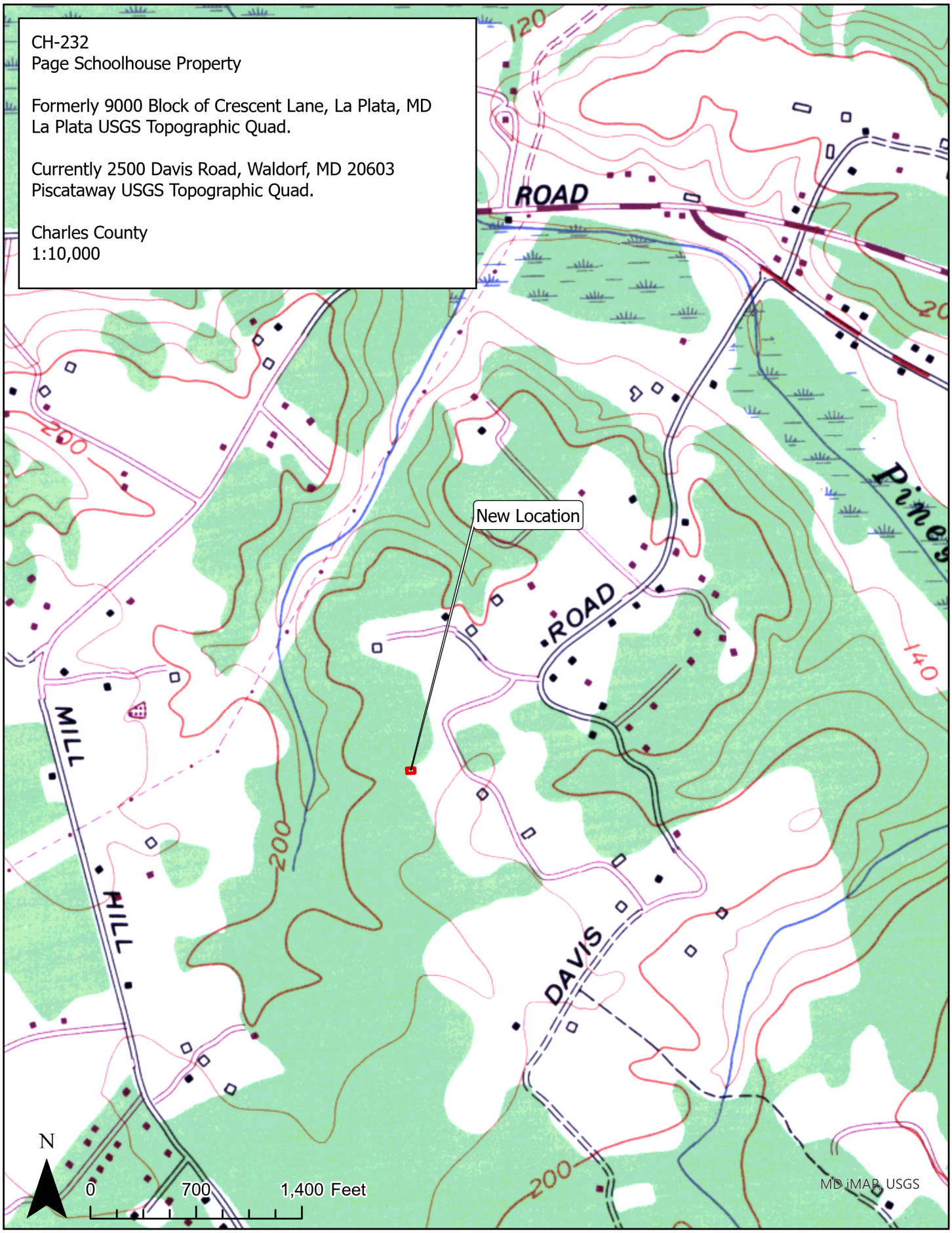
The purpose of this addendum is to update the current location for the Page Schoolhouse Property.

The schoolhouse was originally situated on Crescent Lane near Turkey Hill Road in La Plata, MD. In 2011, the Sanders family donated the building to the Charles County Public Schools. The school system relocated the schoolhouse to the North Point High School campus in Waldorf, MD, next to Theodore Davis Middle School.

Prepared by: **Mary Kate Mansius (MHT), based on info from Amanda Kline (CCPS)** **Date:** **12/30/2025**



Mapped created by MKM 12/30/2025



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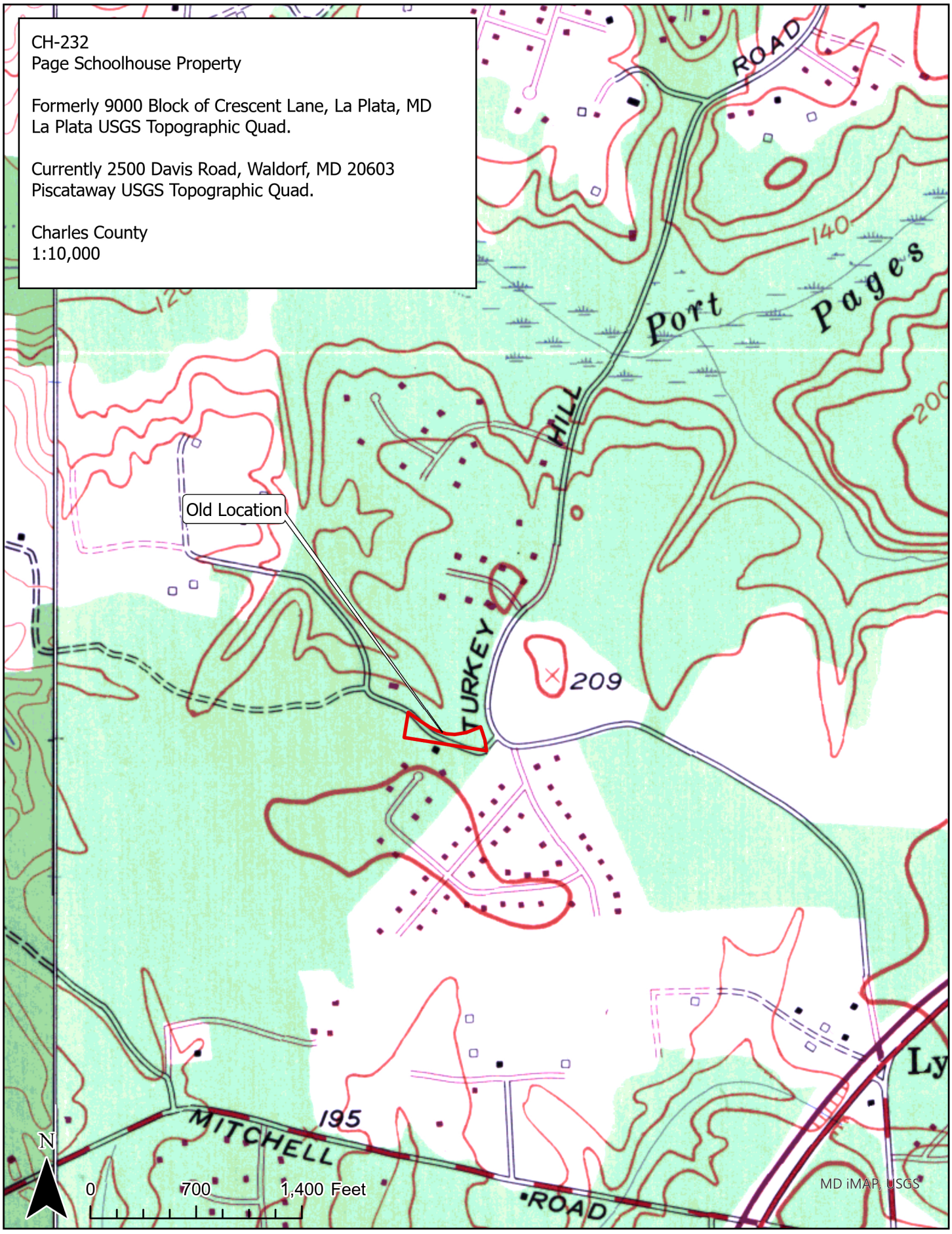

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